Bob Pearce
3-8-82.

# THE CROSBY VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY
Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. VBH 2120

ISSUE No.21 AUGUST 1982

Hello again,
at last - here is the long-delayed second edition of the 'Crosby Voice' for 1982, but, as promised, it is a big thick issue. In fact, this is the largest issue of the magazine we have yet produced with a total of 48 pages in all. To those members who feel that they deserve four full issues for the subs every year, we can only say 'relax'. When this issue is added to our Christmas issue (which will be even larger), you'll be receiving about as many pages as you would have if we had published the usual four magazines.

With any luck, in 1983, we should again return to our normal publication schedule.

The big news in recent months has, of course, been the Crosby auction in America. This event attracted a huge amount of publicity all around the world, not all of it favourably biased towards Kathryn either. Thank you to all those members who took the trouble to send us cuttings. Elsewhere in this issue, we publish a selection of these which tell the full story - or at least as many sides of it as we can find. We also have our own first hand report. Graham Reade of Adelaide actually went across to San Francisco for the event and has filed a detailed coverage of things the way he saw them.

In late June, we held our first-ever joint function with the International Sinatra Society and a report of this successful evening appears in our 'Past Functions' pages. However, I did want to make mention at this point of a very nice lady I met on the evening - Betty Shaw of Preston. Betty has been a Crosby fan since the mid-1930's and still has in her person letters and photographs that she received from Bing at the time. She very kindly lent these to us and a personally autographed photograph and letter from 1937 may be found on pages 25 and 26. If space permits, we will also include other items from Betty's collection; if not, we will hold them off until next time.

On pages 14, 15 and 16 we reproduce the rare sheet music from the official theme song of the Australian Crosby Society of the 1940's.

Bing's 1953 autobiography 'Call Me Lucky' was issued a number of times by different publishing houses. On page 21, we feature two of the covers used which interesting feature the same photograph of Bing but in one the picture has been reversed. Incidentally, this

latter cover is from the 'Cardinal Pocket Book' issue, a copy of which will be raffled at our next meeting on August 16th. This edition is illustrated throughout with cartoons by Carl Rose, and a selection of these appears on our centre pages 23 and 24. And whilst on the subject of Crosby books, on page 22, we feature the covers of two more books about Bing.

Of interest to those who use our cassette library will be the news that the series of 'Bing Films' cassettes which feature the actual soundtrack versions of the songs from Bing's movies from 1929 to 1964, have been completely re-recorded to incorporate additional material and that there are now nine instead of eight cassettes as previously. Complete details of these cassettes appear later in the magazine.

On Page 32, we have further proof of Bing's birthdate - congratulatory notices from Spokane newspapers of May 1903!

May I take this opportunity to remind you that membership fees are once again due. Doesn't seem like a year since last time, but it certainly is. PLEASE, if you do not intend to renew, please let us know <u>now</u> by returning the renewal slip appropriately marked. This saves us the trouble and expense of reminding you over and over again. By the way, in these financially difficult times, if you have trouble finding the money, please let us know. All such letters will be handled with complete discretion; in fact, yours truly will be the only person to know and I have a terrible memory. We certainly wouldn'twant to lose any members for the sake of a few dollars.

Overseas and Australian members who have paid until August 1983, please ignore any comments about renewals. In fact, you should not even receive a membership renewal slip with this newsletter. If you have, please return it to us so that we may correct our records.

Earlier this year, we received a fascinating collection of magazines from club member and committee member, George Styles. These were copies of the Australian Musical news magazine 'Tempo' and the copies range from the early 1940's to the early 1950's. Overseas films and musical artists are extensively covered, so naturally, there is a great deal on Bing. Excerps from these magazines will be appearing in this and future editions of the 'Crosby Voice'. And now, onto Future Functions.

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## FUTURE FUNCTIONS

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### MONDAY AUGUST 16TH - FILM EVENING - DOUBLE FEATURE

"TWO FOR TONIGHT" and "ONE HOUR WITH YOU"

Once again, we have a Crosby movie from the mid-1930's that has not been screened in many a long year. Although 'Two for Tonight' is not one of the great Crosby movies from the period, it does have some fine Crosby vocalizing on such songs as 'Takes two to make a bargain', 'I wish I were Aladdon' and 'Without a word of warning'.

As a companion piece, we have chosen the sophisticated 1932 Maurice Chevalier movie 'One Hour With You' which also stars Jeannette MacDonald. One of Chevalier's better movies, the dialogue still stands up well today.

We will have Crosby records for sale and for raffle prizes and our special top prize of the night will be, as mentioned earlier, a copy of Bing's autobiography 'Call me Lucky' in paperback.

Venue, as per usual, is the theatrette of the Mobil Building, 2 City Road, South Melbourne, behind the newly completed Art Centre theatre.

Starting time for the movies will be 7.30 SHARP (we must start right on time to fit in both features) so plan to arrive between 7.00 and 7.15.

Cost of entry:

Members: $2
Member families: $5
Pensioners and Junior Members: $1

Temporary membership for non-members: $4 per head.

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### SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH - A NIGHT AT TIKKI AND JOHNS MUSIC HALL

As part of our policy of including social functions as part of our annual calendar, we have made a block booking for forty people to attend Tikki and Johns Music Hall in the city. This enormously

popular venue always attracts huge crowds, and in fact, we had to book last February to get in on this night. If you've never been to Tikki and Johns before, you're in for a great treat. The programme for this night features 'The Comedians' who include Ernie Bourne and Maurie Fields. Dinner is included in the pricc but drinks are extra.

The cost is normally $22 per head but the society is subsidizing this cost to bring it down to $17 per head.

You may have already noticed that your membership renewal form includes a booking slip for the evening. We are asking for a $10 deposit per head to be paid now, and the balance on the evening. Please book early as the seats will go fast. In fact, the committee has already reserved one quarter of the available tickets!

Cut off time for booking is August 31st. Unfortunately, if you write after this date, you will miss out.

BOOK NOW.

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PAST FUNCTIONS

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MONDAY APRIL 19TH - MOVIE NIGHT - 'GOING HOLLYWOOD'

More than 70 members turned up to this, one of the great 'lost' Crosby movies from the early 30's and they were certainly not disappointed with what they saw. 'Going Hollywood' is a true spectacular in the early Hollywood tradition with hundreds of extras, big production numbers and some classic Crosby songs.

We raffled a copy of 'The Hollow Man' book which was won by Mr Sharples whilst Crosby records were won by Bob Neate, Adrian Fowler and Wally Carson.

Thanks to Wally's daughter Shauna who drew the winning tickets. (No Wally, we're not suggesting that the raffle was fixed!)

In addition to Going Hollywood, we screened a series of short films which proved to be a real mixed bag - the most unusual of which featured wonderful Ethel Waters and the Mills Brothers.

TIME, MAY 16, 1983

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The 1967 autobiography of **Kathryn Crosby** was entitled *Bing and Other Things* (sample chapters: "How to Marry Bing"; "How to Have a Baby—or Three"). Well, **Bing** is gone, and soon a lot of the "other things" will be too, says Kathryn, 48. Late this month at Butterfield's auction house in San Francisco, she will put virtually her entire collection of Bing-à-brac on the block. Included is Bing's first recording, *I've Got the Girl*, made in 1926 with Don Clark and his Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel Orchestra. Also up for bids: Bing's fishing gear (fish too, sold separately), the Crosby family Bible and most of his trophies and awards, from a plastic "The World's Best Dad" loving cup from Son Nathaniel to his platinum record for *Silent Night*. Says Kathryn: "This will allow some other people the opportunity to polish them."

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# Annual Bing Crosby tribute set

The Don Eagle Trio from Spokane will headline the fourth annual "Tribute to Bing in Tacoma," set for May 2.

The yearly event honors the late singer-actor Bing Crosby, who was born in Tacoma May 3, 1903.

The Eagle Trio, which plays big band-era music, will entertain at a banquet the evening of May 2, which will start with no-host cocktails at 4 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. The event will be at the Harvester Restaurant, 29 Tacoma Ave.

Eagle, who worked with Crosby in the 1947 film, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, also will tell about his experiences in the Crosby era.

The "Tribute to Bing" will include a silent auction of Crosby memorabilia, 3:30 p.m. May 2, also at the Harvester.

Tickets for the tribute are $15 each. Reservations can be made by calling 627-2947 or at the Bing Crosby Historical Society office, 1127 Broadway Plaza.

MONDAY JUNE 21ST - THE CROSBY/SINATRA EVENING

Despite a freezing Melbourne winter evening, over 60 members from both Societies turned up to an enjoyable programme of video material First on was Bing's 1971 telemovie 'Dr Cook's Garden' in which he gave one of his best dramatic performances. This was followed by the first of the TV specials from the mid-60's 'Sinatra - a man and his music' which was an excellent production by any standards, and finally, the highlight of the evening, excerpts from a TV special from the late 50's with Bing, Frank, Dean Martin and Mitzi Gaynor. Although the most dated of the three tapes, everyone seemedto be having a lot of fun.

Thanks to the Sinatra Society for their help in organizing the evening.

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THE CROSBY AUCTION
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No occurence since Bing's death has aroused so much interest or controversy as Kathryn's decision to auction off the majority of Bing's personal effects.

It is certainly not our place to judge the rightness or wrongness of such an action. However, because the auction did cause so very much comment, we are making a major feature of it in this issue of the Crosby Voice.

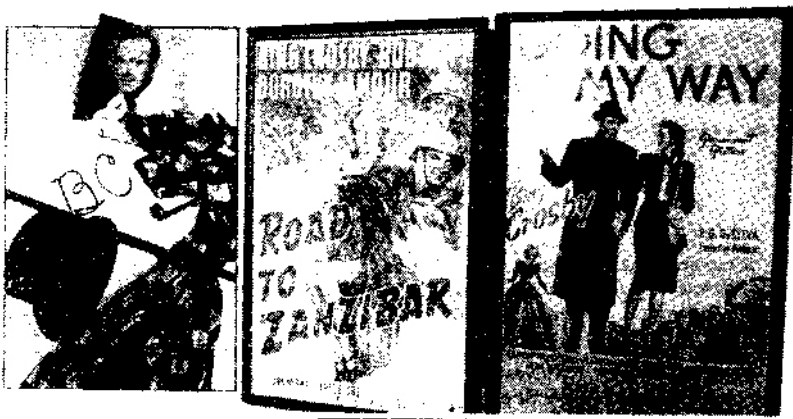
We have newspaper and magzine articles which give different views to the story and we have Graham Reade's personal account of the event.

There were a total of 2,322 items included in the sale and whilst it is impossible to feature these here, we have included a brief summary for your interest.

There were a number of Movie posters framed photographs of Bing and Kathryn, paintings and drawings of Bing, furniture, lamps, autographed photo's from stars of the 30's and 40's, scripts of Bing's movies and 1964 TV series, Golf trophys of all shapes and sizes, cutlery and crockery, pipes, a great quantity of records including blow-ups, test recordings, unissued sides , Bing and

cont/11

# Memories of Bing Crosby... to the highest bidder




Keepsakes of the late great Bing which will go on sale include some golf equipment, 'intimate' personal items like ties photographs, posters of his early films and, of course, his pipes

# Fans have always begged Bing Crosby's wife for mementoes of the singer. Now, at an auction, they can buy their fill

Bing Crosby fans will be able to bid on everything from golf clubs and gold records to family photographs and flowered neckties when a warehouse full of the entertainer's memorabilia goes up for auction from May 25 to May 28. Under the hammer will go hundreds of Bing's records, movie scripts and posters, sheet music, fishing tackle, riding trophies, rare recordings and photographs, handwritten letters and an assortment of hats, pipes, clothing and other personal effects.

Furniture and paintings from the late singer's six homes will also be included, as will the walls from his dressing-room at Paramount Studios.

"It took me five years to come to this decision," Bing's widow Kathryn said of her decision to auction his things.

"For a long time I didn't want to give anything up but then I decided you can't hold on to everything," she said. "I didn't want the items to go to a museum. Museums are not really alive. I wanted the people who loved Bing to have some of his things."

So, anxious to clean house and encouraged by Bing's friends and fans, Kathryn decided on an auction. "It seemed the fairest way to handle it," she told The Weekly.

Many of the items for sale were specifically requested by fans. "People have asked me to put up some of those terrible ties that Bing used to wear," Kathryn said. "So we've done that. I've put out some evening shirts, too, just to show that he had them — he never wore them, but he had them."

Also up for sale is the top hat Bing wore to the 1955 Academy Awards. "He was up for an Academy Award for 'Country Girl'," Kathryn explained. "He wore that topper and a beautiful silk scarf. He looked super!"

Other items of interest include a rattlesnake skin hunting vest, which was a Christmas gift from some friends in Texas, some Prohibition whisky, and a pair of leather boots ornamented with musical notes which bear the name "Bing" across the front of them.

"Bing wore those at our ranch in California," Kathryn said. "They are works of art, aren't they? They would be nice for somebody riding out in the bush."

Among the singer's personal mementos are stacks of photographs, many of them taken by Bing himself.

"He had a camera that would set itself, so he would push a button and jump in front for a photo," said Kathryn.

Other photographs given to Bing have been autographed by Jimmy Durante, Gary Cooper, Pearl Bailey, Clara Bow, Jackie Cooper and many others.

Though no one could say exactly how high the bidding would go, one estimate put the proceeds in excess of $2 million.

"These are the kinds of items that are hard to put a price on because you don't know what kind of personal interest people will attach to them" said a spokesman at Butterfield and Butterfield, the auctioneers.

Kathryn hasn't decided where the proceeds will go. "Really, I have a hard time thinking past what I'm doing right now, and what I'm doing right now is trying to get my house cleaned. I'm not thinking any further ahead than that."

— TERESA BURKE

# Bidding Farewell to Bing

*An auction of Bing Crosby's effects — from pipes to putters — was a mix of garage sale and wake.*

By Jerry Parker

"I FLEW here just for this," Bill Cummings, who owns drugstores in Wichita, Kan., said the other day at the Bing Crosby Memorabilia auction in San Francisco. "I'm a real garage sale addict, and this is the ultimate garage sale. I always liked Bing, anyway," he added.

"I think it's the most tasteless thing I have ever seen," said Petra Martin, a German-born, fashionable San Franciscan whose husband, Greg, had just paid $350 for a leather wastebasket with "Bing" on one side. "It seems like a funeral, with the widow sitting up front to greet everyone."

"Well, maybe it is [in bad taste]," the widow, Kathryn Grant Crosby, said with a shrug: "Everyone will have to decide for themselves. I just want everyone to have a good time. It's a party. We're having a lovely, gay, simple party."

Party, garage sale or funeral — and the event bore some resemblance to all three — the auction of Crosby memorabilia, from gold records to bow ties, drew a crowd of 500 and raised $186,000 Friday at Butterfield's, the 17-year-old San Francisco auction house. Earlier last week, furniture, paintings and cars that had belonged to the singer, who died at 74 in 1977, brought another $1,000,000.

The auction house had hoped the sale might bring a million dollars. Spokeswoman Arlene Horwitz-Wah said the gallery had overestimated the interest in a few paintings. Alfred J. Munnings' "On the Moors," appraised at $300,000, did not sell at all. "We didn't know what to expect from the memorabilia," said Wah, "but I think we are very happy."

A golf club, Bing's favorite putter, proved to be the most cherished bit of Crosbyana. Barry Gibb of the Bee Gees paid $7,500 for it. An anonymous bidder walked off with the carpet from Crosby's secretary's office for $10. The hundreds of items that fell in between included: a "Road to Zanzibar" poster ($250); a platinum record for selling 3 million copies of "Silent Night" ($1,700); an autographed wedding picture of Frank and Barbara Sinatra ($425); a half-dozen rifles ($850-$1,600). A felt hat — quintessentially Bing — brought $1,300. Six rosaries went for $80, and 12 bottles of tequila for $70.

Gibb was the major purchaser. The rock star, who did not attend, had a Los Angeles publicist, Ann Toler, do his bidding. She spent at least $12,000 of her client's money. Besides the custom-made trail putter, with "Bing" engraved on the head, Toler bought Crosby's desk ($1,800), his hand-tooled cowboy boots (1,600), a sterling silver putter from Tiffany ($800), and seven of Crosby's pipes, priced from $200 to $450.

"Barry is the biggest Crosby fan," said Toler. "All the Bee Gees are fans. Their father is an old-time bandleader, and Bing was his idol."

Crosby's 47-year-old widow, who initiated the sale by cleaning house at six Crosby residences, professed to be delighted with the outcome. "I think we've had a lovely day," said the Texas-born ex-starlet, who married Crosby in 1957, five years after the death of his first wife. In an elegant pink suit and with her reddish hair in a ponytail, Mrs. Crosby was on hand throughout the day, patiently signing autographs, giving interviews, and keeping a close watch on the sale.

Mrs. Crosby said she didn't know what she would do with the profit, but said much of it may stay at the auction house. "I've been going to auctions all week," she said, "and I've got a lot of lovely things. So far, I think I owe Butterfield's my life."

Gary Crosby, who at 48 is a year older than his stepmother, was the only one of the late singer's seven children to attend the event. The first of four sons born of Crosby's marriage to the late Dixie Lee, he indicated it was probably a good thing all the brothers were not present. "I was the only one [of the four] he left anything to," said Gary Crosby. "It didn't make for great feelings."

Crosby said he is friendly now with brothers Dennis and Lindsay. "But I don't want anything to do with Phillip," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, he's dead." The animosity, he said, has much to do with an article Phillip Crosby wrote for the National Enquirer.

Gary Crosby, a round-faced, blonder version of his father, lives in Sherman Oaks, Calif., with his second-wife, Andrea. He takes acting jobs "if anyone asks me" and is at work on a book, tentatively titled "Bing's Boy."

"It won't be a 'daddy dearest,'" he said. "But I tell the truth. He was a normal father, a strict disciplinarian. His word was law and what you thought didn't matter." Was there anything in his father's effects he would like to buy? "There's an old studded western belt he used to apply to our backsides," he said with a grin, "I'd like to find that and have a belt burning."

The singer's eldest had no problem with the auction's propriety. "If Dad were here, he'd be happy as hell about it," he said. Neither did Regina Rowe, a middle-aged San Franciscan, obviously delighted with her $80 purchase of two silver baby rattles engraved "Mary Frances Crosby" and "Harry Lillas Crosby II."

"I loved Bing Crosby," said Regina Rowe. "I think it's wonderful that Mrs. Crosby did this. It's sharing his life a little bit. I'm sure that's the way she meant it."

The catalog's most eyebrow-raising item, the Crosby family Bible, dated 1832, was withdrawn and sent home with the singer's sister, Mary Rose Poole of Carmel, Calif. Kathy Crosby said the Bible was listed "by mistake."

The auction was terminated a[illegible] after it began — with some of the [illegible] handkerchiefs, tired-looking [illegible] jama tops, a pair of long underwear [illegible]

People carried their letter opener[illegible] bourbon, and autographed copies of "[illegible] Greatest Show in Golf" out onto Butter Street, [illegible] bating the dignity of it all.

A reporter asked Mrs. Crosby how she [illegible] remark of Herb Caen, the San Francisco [illegible] popular columnist, who called the [illegible] words." "Herb's an old friend, and [illegible] likes," she said with a smile. "Bing [illegible] Some of them were sophisticated, [illegible] Herb and some were plain, simple friends. [illegible]

The hands of [illegible] Adelaide collection [illegible] of his wins from [illegible]

(Cont. from page 6)

Buddy Cole singles, private records, platinum records for a number of titles including 'Seasons', 'Silent Night', tapes of interviews, radio shows, etc, musical scores, sheet music, hats, sweaters, golf clubs, golf buggys, wines and spirits.

And that is the briefest of brief rundowns of a mammoth list occupying some twenty pages. On page 38, you can see two of Bing's grandfather clocks that were included in the sale.

Of particular interest to me is item 1752:"78RPM Disc 'Bing Crosby at the Paramount' 1931, two sides." What do you suppose could be on this early disc, and even more important, who got it?!

The amount of material appealing to the collector is truly staggering. One can only hope that the tapes, records, etc, went to someone who will really appreciate them, and maybe, just maybe, someone who will one day share some of the items on tape.

We do know where a couple of items ended up. Bert Newton of 3UZ in Melbourne purchased (through a third party) one of Bing's pipes and a plaque awarded to him by Australia's wartime Prime Minister John Curtin for assistance in the sale of war bonds. (For more details of this, see 'Bits and Pieces' page).

The New York STAR newspaper brought a Crosby top hat, another pipe, a plaque from the USO, a brass fishing reel and a copy of Bing's first record I've got the Girl' on Columbia 78.

The New York POST Newspaper, not to be outdone, also bought a Crosby top hat and pipe, a family photo album, a selection of movie scripts including 'Road to Rio' and a selection of rare recordings including 'Blue Moon' and 'Secret Love'.

Both newspapers offered these items to readers as prizes in Crosby-knowledge competitions that they ran in late June.

Thanks to Frank Smith of New York who supplied much of the preceeding information.

So what kind of prices did the auction fetch?

Vern Taylor of Portland, Oregon, submits the following information: A framed copy of 'I've got the girl' - $425. An unframed copy: $75.

A private disc, 'The Sachem of Seminole' - $10. Another private disc, 'Wolf Creek' - $80. 'Silent Night' platinum disc - $1,700. 'Seasons' LP platinum disc - $370. 'Palladium Concert' LP, gold disc - $950. Bing's pipes averaged from $225 - $400. Golf Clubs: one set of 1 wood 10 irons - $1,200, a full deluxe set - $4,700, and one 'Beeline' putter - $7,500. (!) A 1937 scarf from Gonzaga featuring several autographs - $1,000. Six rosaries - $250. One rosary and two prayer books - $600. A pope's blessing - $250.

And there you have it. Just a sample of what people were paying for Crosby memorabilia. Estimates of what the auction raised vary from around $300,000 to $2 million! There are also unconfirmed reports that Kathryn donated the entire proceeds to charity.

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GRAHAM READE'S ON THE SPOT REPORT

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(Well-known South Australian collector Graham Reade flew across to America for the auction. Here's his view of the situation.)

"Some would say that San Francisco was a long way to go to spend a couple of hundred dollars for a few old records and a stack of yellowing photographs.

Maybe it was, but for me it was a very special week, a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience an auction of Bing Crosby memorabilia that can never be repeated.

Kathryn Crosby said she wanted it to be a celebration, a wake, for those who loved Bing, and it was. That's why I went and how I will always remember it.

My memories of the auction tend to centre on Mrs Kathryn Crosby. She was a lovely, charming and gracious hostess who says 'that my position in this world rests on being Mrs Bing Crosby'. I think she spoke to almost everyone who attended the auction. She's that kind of lady. She remembered Margaret and I from the 1976 London Palladium season and immediately wanted to know where Margaret was. I was invited to her Hillsborough home for tea. She talked a lot about Bing and does care greatly that his memory isn't tarnished. Her home is full of memories of the man. Barnaby Conrad's magnificent painting, the gold and platinum records, his Oscar, and so many sporting awards. That's right, Kathryn didn't auction everything. She kept those things she treasured most and auctioned the rest.

She said 'for a longtime I didn't want to give things up, but I decided you can't hold on to everything. I didn't want them to go to a museum. Museums are not really alive. I wanted the people who loved Bing to have some of his things and an auction seemed the fairest way to handle it.'

Not everyone agreed with her decision to hold the auction. In fact, she was subjected to a lot of flack and ill-founded criticism from some who should have known better. She was criticised for auctioning some of Bing's shirts and ties, pyjama tops, socks, handkershiefs and the like. In fact, I must admit I wondered why she was auctioning such things and asked her why to her face. She looked me straight in the eye and made me feel very humble by saying 'because people asked that they be included'. She had been giving his clothes away, to those family and friends who could wear them. Now others who wanted some of Bing's clothes have got them.

There were 2,322 items auctioned and maybe some people did pay too much for some things, but they did so willingly. They knew what they were buying. Everything auctioned was on display and could be inspected. Mr and Mrs Average American were prepared to spend a little to own a little of Bing Crosby. More than anything else, I think the auction highlighted the admiration that general public had for Bing. Several thousand people must have attended at least.

Yet this man isn't a cult figure in terms of Presley and others and for this I think we must thank Mrs Kathryn Crosby. She is determined that the Crosby name will not be tarnished and used by some for sheer monetary gain. She is not against people or companies issuing Bing memorabilia. In fact, she is currently repackaging some of his TV material for television and videotape issue. Her concern is that it be done properly and tastefully in a way that will honour the man. She doesn' want what has happened with Presley to happen with Bing.

Much has already been written and said about the prices that people like Barry Gibb paid for his putter ($7,500) or cowboy boots ($1,600). His hats, pipes and his records also fetched good prices, and it was interesting to observe the cross-section of people from all walks of life who were bidding at the auction.

I didn't fly half way around the world with the intention of coming home with a plane load of Bing Crosby memorabilia, although I must admit I was very tempted by some of the things I saw. (Cont.../17)

Lyrics by
VIC & BOB REES
Music by
ERIC AITKEN
JIMMIE STEVENS

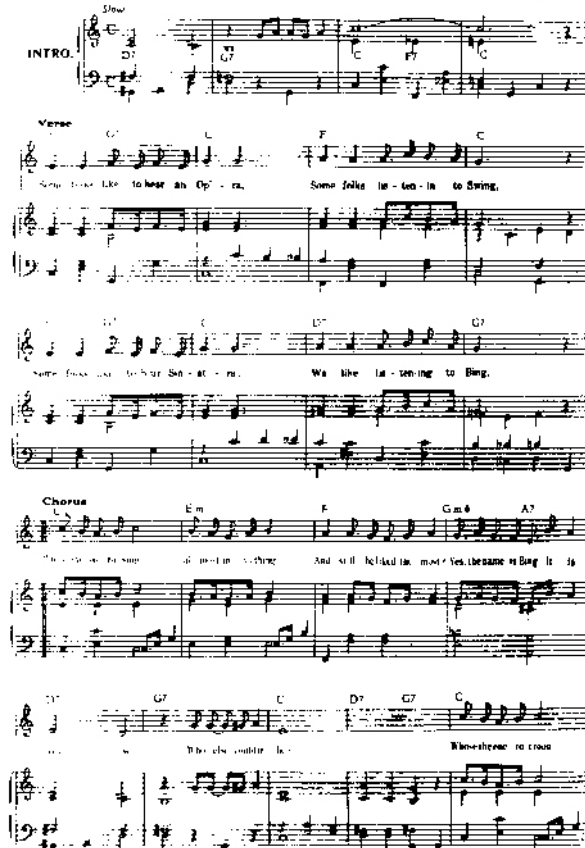
OFFICAL THEME SONG OF THE AUSTRALIAN BING CROSBY CLUB

# It Is Crosby

## WHO ELSE GOULD IT BE?

Lyrics by
BOB and SUE REES

Music by
JUNE STEVENS and ERIC AITKEN.



Em F Gm6 A7 D7
You'll hear the peo - ple say
G7 C F7 C C7
Who else could it be?
He has giv - en us
F
Pen - nies from Heav'n,
C G7 C Bm7 E7 Am
Go - ing My Way.
He's sung for a de - cade
G D7 G7
And yet he's still top croon - er to - day
C Em
That's the way it goes.
ev' - ry - bod - y knows
F Gm6 A7 D7
Who leads the Hit Par - ades, packs the picture shows. It is Cros - by.
G7 C G7 C G7
We know you as Bing, and we hail you as king
C G7 C
Bing, and we hail you as king

(Cont. from p.13)
There were some nice things; in fact there were a lot of nice things, and perhaps now, in hindsight, I am a liitle sorry that I wasn't more liberal in my bidding. There were a couple of beautiful paintings I would have liked, and of course, there were the gold and platinum records. I should point out that Bing possessed more than one copy of each. I did bid on the plaque presented to Bing by Australia's war time Prime Minister John Curtin, but Bert Newton outbid me, unbeknowns to me at the time. But I'm so glad he got it because I think it is important and right that the plaque be returned to Australia. Bert's always a keen fan and supporter and he surely deserves it.

I flew half way round the world to experience a celebration of collecting Crosbyana and that's what I did. I possess a complete collection of Bing's commercial records, plus, I suppose, on tape, thousands of the songs Bing sang on radio and television as well as a large video collection, so I think it can be said that I know a little about Crosby collecting.

Bing must have been a very sentimental man. You couldn't help but be aware of that as you viewed the 2,322 items auctioned. He kept so much. He had written comments on some of the scripts and on the back of some of the photos, which made them unique and unforgettable. He was that type of man, a very special man, who will never be forgotten. I'm very glad that I got to know him just a little in the closing years of his life.

Yes, I've got a lot of good memories of that week. I treasure the friendship I received from Kathryn Crosby and her sister Frances Meyer. Bing's sister Mary Rose was there. She's now 75 and is a very interesting and friendly lady. Gary Crosby was there,and we talked a lot. He seems to have lost that chip on his shoulder he had towards Bing. He had just recently remarried and been through open heart surgery. We talked about a lot of things. His Australian tour with Louis Armstrong in 1956, about a contemporary music series he has done a pilot on, and is hopeful that the Disney organization might take it up.

I could go on and on. I shared a marvellous time with so many good friends and I thank them all. Thank you Priscilla, Pat, Larry, Gerald, Jack Eleanor and Ted, Cathy and Hobie and so many others. Thank you Kathryn and thank you Bing.' Graham Reade

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CASSETTE LIBRARY NEWS!!
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'BING FILMS' CASSETTES - TOTALLY RE-RECORDED WITH NEW MATERIAL.

I'm happy to announce that we have just finished re-recording the club library cassettes featuring the actual soundtrack songs from Bings movies from 1929 to 1964.

The reason for this action is simply that quite an amount of new and hitherto unavailable rare material has come to light since the cassettes were originally recorded back in 1978. In fact, so much material has been added that instead of eight cassettes we now have nine. A rundown of the cassettes and their contents follows. If you would like to borrow one or more of these tapes but have lost your cassette library instructions and/or borrowing form, drop me a line and I will get whatever you require back to you. Our address: PO Box 422, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205. As with the rest of the cassettes in our library, this service, for logistical reasons, is limited only to Australian members.

BING FILMS 1

Ripstitch the Tailor (1929), King of Jazz (1930), Check and Double Check (1930), Reaching for the Moon (1930), I Surrender Dear (1931), One More Chance (1931), Billboard Girl (1931), Dream House (1931), Sing Bing Sing (1931), Blue of the Night (1931), Confessions of a Co-ed (1931), The Big Broadcast (1932), Hollywood on Parade (1932), Please (1932) College Humour (1933), Too much Harmony (1933). Hollywood on Parade (1933).

Note: Bing often presented different versions of the same songs in his early pictures. So if you find that a song is heard more than once, this is the reason.

BING FILMS 2

Going Hollywood ((1933), We're Not Dressing (1934), She Loves Me Not (1934), Here is My Heart (1934), Mississippi (1935), Two For Tonight (1935), Big Broadcast of 1936 (1935), Star Night at Coconut Grove (1935).

BING FILMS 3

Anything Goes (1936), Rhythm on the Range (1936), Pennies From Heaven (1936), Waikiki Wedding (1937), Double or Nothing (1937), Dr Rhythm (1938), Sing you Sinners (1938), Paris Honeymoon (1939), East Side of Heaven (1939) (start).

BING FILMS 4

East Side of Heaven (1939) (end), Star Maker (1939), Road to Singapore (1940), If I Had My Way (1940), Where the Turf Meets the Surf (1940), Rhythm on the River (1940), Road to Zanzibar (1941), Birth of the Blues (1941).

BING FILMS 5

Swing with Bing (1942), Angels of Mercy (1942), Holiday Inn (1942), Road to Morocco (1942), Star Spangled Rhythm (1942), Dixie (1943), Going My Way (1944), Here Come the Waves (1944), Road to Victory (1944), Duffy's Tavern (1945).

BING FILMS 6

Road to Utopia (1946), Out of This World (1945), All Star Bond Rally (1945), Hollywood Victory Caravan (1945), Bells of St Marys (1945), Swinging With The Stars (1946), Blue Skies (1946), Welcome Stranger (1947), Variety Girl (1947), Emperor Waltz (1948), Road to Rio (start) (1948).

BING FILMS 7

Road to Rio (end) (1948), A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court (1949), Top of the Morning (1949), The Legend of Sleepy Hollow (1949), Riding High (1950), Mr Music (1950).

BING FILMS 8

Here Comes the Groom (1951), Just For You (1952), Road to Bali (1952), Little Boy Lost (1953), White Christmas (1954), Country Girl (1954).

BING FILMS 9

Anything Goes (1956), High Society (1956), Man on Fire (1957), Say One For Me (1959), High Time (1960), Let's Make Love (1960), Pepe (1960), Road to Hong Kong (1962), Robin and the Seven Hoods(1964).

And there you are. On nine cassettes, the songs from virtually every Crosby film appearance. And you'll find that in many cases, Bing is in far better voice than on the commercially issued records of the time.

**********

NEW RECORDS

**********

Sentimental Bing - Decca TAB 31 (also cassette)

A welcome issue in Australia for it brings together, for the first time in this country, the three late Crosby tracks that have only ever been issued on a double LP set in the U.K. Namely, "At Last", "That Old Black Magic" and "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You". The balance of the LP is made up with assorted tracks from other Decca sessions of the mid-1970's.

Going Hollywood - Vol 17

This LP, pressed in America, is the last in a series of privately issued Australian LP's covering the soundtracks from Bing's movies. The reason for its American manufacture is that sadly, facilities no longer exist in Australia for producing records of this kind in limited quantity. Because of this, the record has been produced in larger quantities than the earlier issues (all of which are absolutely unavailable from any source - so please don't write) and has been made available to all interested parties.
Contents are the soundtrack songs from: Ribstitch the Tailor, Confessions of a Co-ed, Please, Big Broadcast (trailer), Hollywood on Parade (1933), Pennies from Heaven outtake, Rhythm on the Range outtake, Where the turf meets the surf (parody), Double or Nothing Outtake, Let's make Love, High Time and Robin and the 7 Hoods.

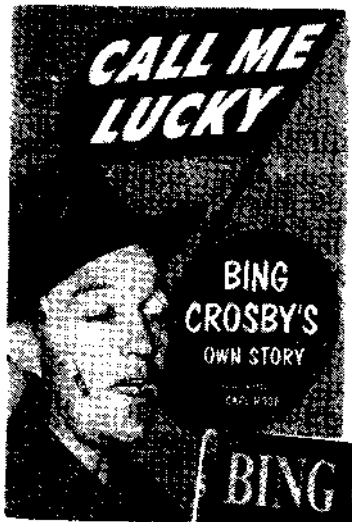
An odd mix, but it brings together some recently available early material and the last of Bing's features.

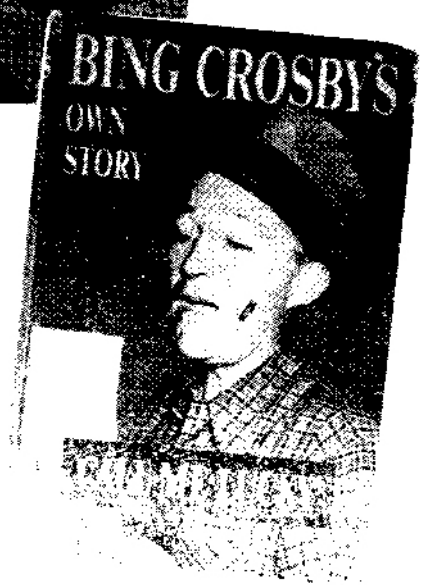
The record is being made available to Australian members of the club for the special subsidized price of Au$6.00 and is available at meetings. Interstate and country members may purchase the record by mail but for an additional $2 to cover packing and postage.

Overseas members may purchase the record only direct from Spokane Records, P.O. Box 724, Redmond, WA 98052, USA. Please write for exact price details enclosing 2 international reply coupons.

NB This record is not available for sale in record shops.

cont.../27

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BOOKS ABOUT BING, BY BING

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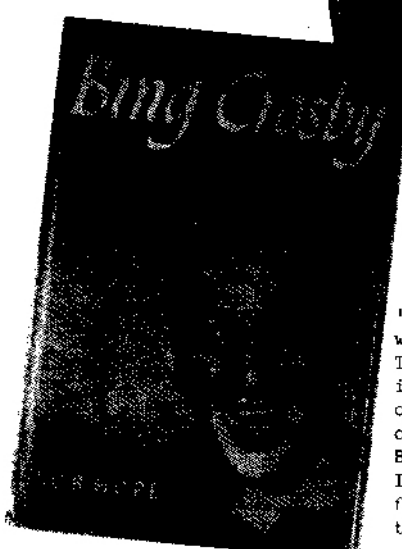
Well actually, two covers for the same book - Bing's 1953 autobiography 'Call Me Lucky'. Below, the original Simon and Shuster edition from June 1953 and above, the 'Cardinal' paperback of twelve months later. A copy of this rare paperback will be won at our August 10th meeting.

QUESTION: Which version of this photo of Bing is the bright [illegible]

**********
BOOKS ABOUT BING,
**********
**********
BY OTHER PEOPLE
**********

Both these books are now quite hard to obtain. 'Bing and Other Things' was written by Kathryn in 1967 and this is the cover of the 'Book Club' edition.




'The Story of Bing Crosby' was written by Bing's brother Ted and originally published in 1937. This is the cover of the 1946 re-issue which contains a foreword by Bob Hope.
It is almost certainly the first major book on Bing to have been published.

*For a while I tried to sing like Al Jolson.*

*... took off for L. A. in an eight-dollar jalopy.*

**********

CARTOONS FROM CALL ME LUCKY

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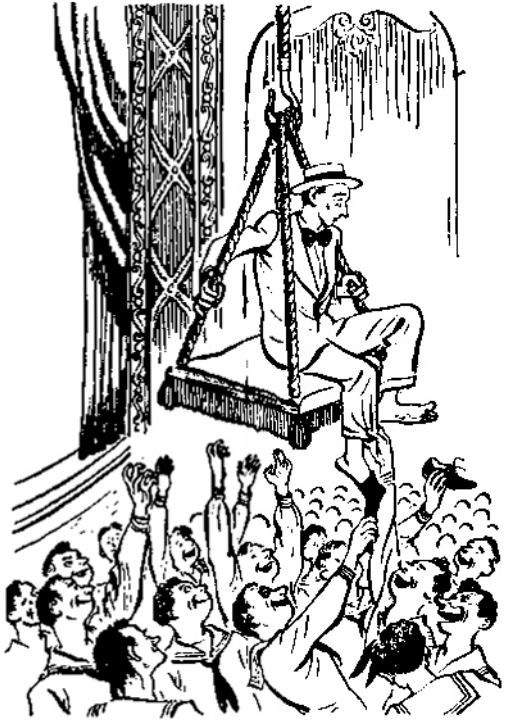
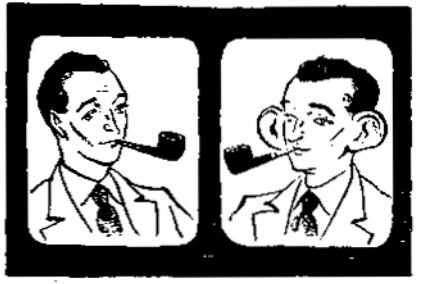
The 'Cardinal' paperback edition of 'Call Me Lucky' features cartoons by Carl Rose illustrating various anecdotes from the book. Herewith we present a selection of these cartoons.



*Sailors reached up and took off my shoes and socks.*





*In the first part I looked like a whippet. In the second, I looked like Dumbo.*

*Whiteman was eating caviar with a cooler of champagne beside him.*

Bing Crosby
NATIONAL BROADCASTING COMPANY
Hollywood

July 18, 1938

Dear Miss Phillips:

It is a pleasure to fulfill your picture request in return for your kind words, and to assure you we are always open to suggestions.

We are hard at work on a new picture, "Paris Honeymoon". "Sing You Sinners" will be out in September, and the songs are now on the air - "I've Got A Pocketful Of Dreams", "Don't Let That Moon Get Away" and "Laugh and Call It Love". Hope you'll like them.

I plan to vacation from the Music Hall radio program until October.

Thanks for your interest.

Best wishes,

Bing

BC:rc

P. S. In answer to many inquiries, the book "Bing" may be obtained through book stores, or direct from Larry Crosby, 9022 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood.

From Betty Shaw's collection

(cont from p.20)

Der Bingle - Vol 3 - Spokane 20

Although this record was covered in an earlier edition of the 'Crosby Voice', we now have copies available to club members, also for $6.00. Side 1 features an edition of the wartime 'Mail Call' programme with guests Bette Davis, Barry Fitzgerald, Leo McCarey, William Frawley and Don Wilson. Although the date is not given, the programme appears to have been recorded shortly after Bing won his Academy Award for 'Going My Way'. Writing is above average for this type of show.

Side two features other songs from wartime broadcasts: Bless 'em all, Is you is or is you ain't my baby? , The Fifth Marines/The Amphibians Battle hymn, Sunday Monday or Always, Riding Her on a Cloud, The Bombadiers Song, Coming in on a Wing and a Prayer, Shoo Shoo Baby.

German RCA issue - not all details available.

A most unusual compilation of Crosby tracks owned by RCA, this two LP set which goes, from memory, under the title of 'Bing Crosby Forever', mixes numbers from the late 20's, the Gus Arnhiem period, the two radio versions of 'Just one more chance' and 'I'm through with love', and the LP's 'Fancy Meeting you here' and 'Bing with a beat'. Not only that, but the tracks are assembled in non-chronological order! I only saw the record briefly at Readings in South Yarra, but they may still have a copy or two if you are interested. Incidentally, Readings have a fascinating collection of rare and unusual 'Show' LP's plus other imported 'nostalgia' imports.

The Young Dorsey Brothers - EMI Retrospect Series 1-928-930 SHB-67

A double LP set which has36 early tracks from the young Dorsey Brothers Orchestra. Bing is represented on three numbers - 'The Spell of the Blues', 'Let's Do It' and 'My Kinda Love', the latter number only previously available on LP on a deleted 3 lp set from the early 1960's 'The Original Sound of the 20's.' This version features Bing as 'vocal chorus' only and should not be confused with his early solo recording of the same number. This record is available in England although we may see import copies here soon. I'm told that the quality on all the tracks is excellent.

Hollywood Sings - Living Era - AJA 5011

One of the best 'legitimate' labels reissuing old material these days, 'Living Era' have put together an excellent collection drawn from both early 78's and film sountracks.

Bing and the Rhythm Boys are represented on 'Happy Feet' from the King of Jazz soundtrack and there are also numbers from Al Jolson, Marlene Dietrich, James Stewart (in 1931!), Clayton Jackson and Durante, Gloria Swanson, Bill Robinson, Janet Gaynor, Rudolph Valentino, Charles King, Harry Richman, Joan Crawford, the Marx Brothers, Helen Morgan, Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers, Maurice Chevalier, Jeannette Macdonald, Lawrence Tibbett and Eddie Cantor.

Some of it has been issued on LP before, most of it hasn't. The LP is available in this country on EMI Import for about $10.00.

A number of other 'Living Era' records are also available here including the already reviewed 'Bing and Bix' (AJA 5005), an issue of early Rudy Vallee, one of Cliff Edwards, one of music hall artists and one featuring George Formby Senior on side 1 and George Formby Junior on side 2. All tracks are early and rare.

Pennies from Heaven - MGM

The film 'Pennies from Heaven' is playing in town at the moment (the new film , not Bings) and the records used in the soundtrack are available on a two LP set. Bing is represented by 'Did You Ever See a Dream Walking'. Although I have not yet seen the movie, from all reports, it's well worth a visit.

Both Sides of Bing Crosby - Curtain Calls 100/2

We originally saw this LP back in the mid-70's and it has been deleted for some time. This re-issue is therefore welcome for those who missed it originally. 'Both Sides' brings together several Crosby 'blow-ups' including 'Wrap your troubles in dreams', 'Jingle Bells' and 'A Blues Serenade'. There are also parodys of 'Robins and Roses' and 'Rollicking Rockaway Raoul'. There's also Bing's famous argument with Jack Kapp from 1935. The remainder of the record features radio material including hillarious accounts from Bing on how he first met Bob Hope and vice versa.

Although I haven't seen this one in the shops yet, it's sure to turn up

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## THE BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY REPORT

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(As reported in 'The Crooner' - magazine of the BCHS.)

On May first and second, the fourth annual Tribute to Bing was held at the Harvester Restaurant Banquet Room. The capacity crowd was a real surprise.

On Saturday afternoon, video shows were offered. It was viewer's choice because there were many tapes to choose from. One of the most popular was the statue dedication at Gonzaga University on May 3rd, 1981.

That same evening, movies were shown. It is difficult to find unusual Bing movies...ones that haven't been seen by everybody. They are quite expensive to rent, and most of the films privately owned are films seen again and again.

Sunday morning began with more video tape shows. In the afternoon, the group settled down to hear Ken Twiss, President of BCHS, tell of many events leading to this tribute, and about publicity received and plans for the future. Roy Stark asked for ideas and general help from the assembled group, and then "The Good Old Days" quartet arrived. They sang with spirit and obvious enjoyment, and were very well received.

The banquet began at 5.30. It was a delicious meal, and everyone found it excellent. The lime cheesecake, prepared by the President himself, was not only very good, but generously served. 'The recipe is available!)

The Don Eagle Trio then took over and wowed everyone with their music, singing and patter. Don told stories of Bing from first-hand knowledge, which he wove into his arrangements.

After dinner, the tables were cleared away and the dancing began, to the music of the trio, featuring Don on the vibes.

Marion Love Massey, the lady who has cared for Bing's grave for over four years, was in attendance. She is a very dedicated lady with a bubbling personality.

Gregg Hammond was here from New York; he spent a week in the area and generously helped with work for the BCHS office. He is a real asset to the BCHS as a member.

Carmel Gallegos from Honolulu and Gregg from Farmingdale New York were the visitors from the greatest distances. There were also members present from Oregon and California.

Dr Eugene Weigman and his wife Kathy were also special guests. Dr Weigman announced that he had accepted the job of raising money for a foundation to fund a special project at Mary Bridge Children's Health Centre.

Mary Rose Crosby Pool was an honoured guest, who charmed everyone who talked with her. She graciously accepted honorary presidency of the BCHS which pleased the Society very much. Mary Rose was interviewed in the BCHS office by Mike Niesteroff, from KOMO TV, and many shots of the office archives were shown along with the interview on the 5 o'clock news on Sunday, May 2nd.

At the Tribute, Mary Rose was surprised with a birthday cake (her birthday is May 3). She insisted on taking it home to Carmel.

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VERN TAYLOR'S VIEW

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(The following account of the 1982 BCHS tribute is an extract from a letter written to Al Rinker, last surviving member of the Rhythm Boys trio, by Vernon Wesley Taylor. Al Rinker has always had a heavy share of bad luck in his life but has always borne it with great optimism. Within a few weeks of returning home from the first BCHS Tribute in Tacoma four years ago, he suffered a serious heart attack and underwent bypass surgery. A little more than a year ago, he endured several major operations for throat cancer. Recently he has been subjected to necessary chemotherapy to save his life. Through it all, his spirit has never wavered, his belief in life never faltered.)

Dear Al,
Thought you might care to have a written account, a small rundown, on the Fourth Annual Tribute to Bing in Tacoma. Except for your appearance at the First Annual Tribute, it was probably the best so far.

cont../34

At Columbia Bing Crosby and Madge Evans stroll to the "Pennies from Heaven" set, while Bing originates knock-knocks to make them laugh

DAILY LEDGER, TACOMA,
WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1903.

coma National bank vs. Otis Breaker, C. Van Horn and R. W. Derrickson was granted yesterday by the court, and an order was issued by Judge Chapman to that effect.

Butter! Butter! Butter that's Butter, flatter of prices, butter the other fellow's butter. Get your butter at C. H. Plass the grocer, 924 Pacific ave.

A little son arrived May 3 to the home Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Crosby.

Reception and dance is to be given this afternoon from 3 to 6 on board the United States battleship Wisconsin, to which a number of society people have been invited.

The TACOMA DAILY NEWS

Wed. May 6th 1903

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Crosby are receiving congratulations on the arrival of a son at their household May 3.

**Page 22 — The Herald**

**Fri., May 21, 1982**

# Royals hire Bing's butler

LONDON, Thurs., AAP —Prince Charles and Lady Diana have hired a butler who was employed by the late American singer Bing Crosby.

Buckingham Palace confirmed the butler, Alan Fisher, started work a few days ago at the couple's Kensington Palace home.

**The Australasian POST,** November 29, 1951

## *Mrs. Bing's View*

Londoners don't know whether to feel gratified or not by some remarks attributed to Dixie Crosby, wife of the crooning Bing C. Mrs. Crosby recently finished a gay European tour.

She insisted that London's West End has far more night life than Paris.

"There's absolutely no night life in Paris between midnight and 2 a.m." says Dixie. "Everybody has passed out by midnight." ●

State of California

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.

On Bing's 50th anniversary in show business he received many letters including this one from the Governor of California.

TO: BING CROSBY

I am pleased to extend my congratulations to you on the occasion of your fiftieth anniversary in the entertainment world.

Through the sharing of your talent, you have touched the lives of millions with the joy of music. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.
Governor

(cont. from p.30)

Ken Twiss has a tighter, more professional operation these days. He has learned, by painful experience,how to manage such things. You and Elizabeth would have loved it.

It was held in a downtown restaurant, the Harvester, and it was presented to the audience as a supperclub type of show. A trio of bright, talented guys, the Don Eagle Trio, were brought in from Spokane, which seemed happily appropriate, and they put on a four hour stint of songs and patter. They had a singer with them, Bob Juhcin, maybein his fifties, who looked pretty good up there doing many of the songs of Bing and of the Rhythm Boys.

Don Eagle himself sang even more and told a running account of those early adventures Bing had in getting himself underway.

Afterwards, the dinnertables were pushed away, the lights dimmed and a vibra-harp rolled out so that Don Eagle could double on the slats. He made his little mallets do a lot of pretty things and some of the guests worked off their dinners by tearing up the dance floor. After awhile, some of them got up and took whacks at singing Bing themselves.

The two guests of honour were a pair of lovely ladies. One, Marion Love Massey, spends a lot of her time caring for and decorating Bing's grave. She has made the papers often and has a lot of sympathetic souls everywhere who think she is great.

The other was Mary Rose Pool, and a more gracious and attractive lady you would never meet. She gave the show a tone, won everybody over to her side when she held still for the picture-taking - which went on half the night.

So the food and the music and the friends and the talk about the good old days made for a happy time. Only you an Elizabeth not being there kept everything from being perfect.

Vern Taylor.

From Ken Twiss: The Tribute was a huge success. Twice what we expected. Your telegram (sent on behalf of the VBCS) arrived just in time. I read it at the meeting. Next year we plan a big 'birthday party' because it is the 80th anniversary of Bing's birth. We have the biggest banquet hall in the area reserved for April 22nd 23rd and 24th. This is the only time that we could get - even now!

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TAPES FOR SALE

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Arnold Baker, 48 Groomsport Rd, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland BT 20 5LR has a huge collection of Crosby material available on cassette.

An addition of great interest to all is his tape: BC/TE 100. BING AND GLENN MILLER. Long rumoured to exist, this tape from a wartime broadcast in England in September 1944, is now available to anyone who would like a copy. Although there is a little surface noise, this is unavoidable as Arnold's tape is taken direct from the original BBC transcription discs.

Side two of this particular cassette features Bing with famous British orchestra leader George Melachrino, also recorded during the war.

Cost at the time of publication is:

For cassette:

UK - £3.00 inc post/packing
Overseas - £3.50 " "
USA - US$8.50 " " (airmail US$11.00)

For open reel:

UK - £3.50 " "
Overseas - £4.50 " "
USA - US$10.00 " " (airmail US$12.50)

Reels are 5¾" or 7" 1,200 ft.

As you can see, Arnold hasn't given the Australian prices for air mail. Perhaps you should drop him a line first if you're in a hurry for your tapes. And please enclose a couple of international reply coupons - available at any post office - to help keep Arnold's costs down.

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For Bing's Philco, Chesterfield and GE radio shows, write to Jonathan Russell, 10 Roxburgh Rd, Westgate-on-sea, Kent CT8 8RX, U.K.

**********
OTHER CROSBY SOCIETIES
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BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO Box 8013, Tacoma, Washington, USA 98408. President: Ken Twiss.

CLUB CROSBY, PO Box 8283, Sacramento, Ca. 95818, USA. President/ Editor: Al Sutton.

INTERNATIONAL CROSBY CIRCLE, 7 Greenmeadown Close, Cwmbran NP44 4PJ, England. Editor: Reg Bristo.

KATHRYN CROSBY FAN CLUB, 1374 Broadway, Apt 7D, West Somerville, Ma. 02144, USA. President: Caroline Dawson.

THE SOUTHAMPTON BING CROSBY CLUB, 17 Edwina Close, Bitterne, Southampton, Engalnd. Editor: Jim Newell.

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A NEW RADIO SERIES ON BING IN PRODUCTION
**********

An open letter from Vern Taylor, PO Box 475, University Station, Portland, Oregon, 97207-0475, USA.

"This note is to announce to you that Mr John Salisbury, whom you all know and admire as much as I do, is once again undertaking a long and complex series of radio broadcasts on the career and times of Bing Crosby. This time, however, it will not be for merely one station. It will be for the vast USA network of National Educational Radio which is part of the National Educational Television system. The series will be fed to and stored in one of the communications satellites presently circling the earth for the future use of all NER subscribers.

When this new series is completed, it will be heard by millions. The chance of it being beamed throughout the world is there too.

People like us are extremely important to such an enterprise, that is why John Salisbury is asking all of us to stand by him. Though he is a longtime collector of Crosby, he knows he does not have it all. (Does anyone?) Therefore, he is likely to need help as he has in the past. The plans are to produce the richest, (cont.../41)

# Bing's sad legacy

From CHRISTOPHER REED in San Francisco

KATHRYN CROSBY, widow of Bing, is holding a jumble sale of family effects later this month. It is a potential $US2-million deal, but her cheery promotion seems to conceal a sad, painful insight into America's easiest hero.

The "legend loved by millions" died of a heart attack on a golf course in Spain in 1977 at the age of 74. Since then it has been suggested that Bing, the voice on 400 million records, the amiable old Hollywood hoofer, the nice guy, the philosopher of the simple man and everyman's buddy, was somewhat less than the PR machine made him out to be.

Is there is a more important consideration. How was it that an incredible publicity suggested worldwide that he was a wonderful man, when only five years after his death so many damning suggestions are

May be a generation wanted to love him, and as he would have crooned, they wrapped their troubles in dreams. Oddly, the insight may have been provided by the preview offered to Press and TV people examining the artifacts of Bing presented to Butterfield and Butterfield (an auction company in San Francisco dating to 1865).

We were assembled in a basement to view the Crosby artifacts with Mrs Crosby as the jolly MC. As she deftly led the American media through automatic reverence toward the hero, she may have unconsciously provided a bitter-sweet interpretation of the private Crosby life rather than the public face associated with Uncle Sam.

It was not a pretty exercise. Often, Mrs Crosby's wry remarks went over the heads of her media audience. One "trained observer" displayed on local TV a Bing pipe for sale — one of 34 — claiming it was an example of "the lovable star who exposed himself so often for American fighters abroad in Asia".

But let us visit the Butterfield basement with Mrs Crosby, and hear her on life during two decades with the most amiable bloke you could be with . . .

There were hundreds of hats, but for Mrs Crosby there are still thousands, some of which she wears today. Indicating a dozen, she pointed to a brown fur one and said: "Oh! There were thousands: fishing, golfing, skiing, sporting and some I'm not sorry to get rid of. This fur reminds me of a time he jumped ship from a trip to Squaw Valley (the California ski resort) and was photographed with the girl skate team, the girl ski team, the girl snowball team, the girl girly team, and the girl team of whatever else they do up there."

And the fishing equipment. Creels, dozens of rods and flies, and his widow's remark: "I found it all really boring. Try fly fishing for three years and never catch a damn thing.

Beyond Bing's thigh-high fishing boots (containing genuine original mud) there was a 70-centimetre sculpture in barkwood of a man with a spear. "Something Bing brought back from Africa — just what you need in a French-designed living-room," his widow beamed.

Mrs Crosby, an actress before becoming Crosby's second wife, was never keen on sport. Her engagement present was a tooled saddle — yet she never rode — and her marriage gift, an Italian shotgun which she never fired.

Neither gift was in the auction. But there were intriguing echoes of the forties, fifties and sixties contained not just in 78 rpm records of big bands that are now collectors' items, but also in medals, photographs and pieces of furniture, ink-stained, or chewed by the late singer's labradors.

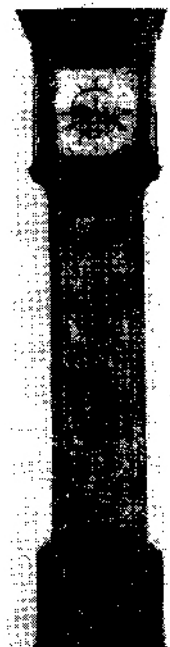
But Mrs Crosby made it clear that life with the intrepid outdoors man was, indeed, golf, shooting, riding, fishing and hunting. It encouraged the idea that if it were a nice day one should kill something. Mrs Crosby never agreed with this, but was apparently never able to make her point.

She pointed to the collection of guns and rifles and said: "I wasn't a gun collector; I was a gun cleaner. I was prepared for my husband leaving on the first day of the hunting season to return at Christmas. Or leave for three months in the salmon-fishing season. It was what my dad did. One must understand men like that."

Mrs Crosby may have had to sell the collection because of the lack of capital granted her in the will. She denies this, but offers no alternative.

THE AGE,
Wednesday
May 19
1982

**4480. GEORGE II INLAID MAHOGANY LONGCASE CLOCK**
*Robert Henderson, Scarborough*, 12" brass arched flat matted and engraved within the chapter ring, calender aperture and inner seconds dial, cast brass cupids' heads spandrels, the arched cameplate flanked by dolphins, the later case having an arched hood with [illegible] cornice mounted with three brass vasiform finials, the glazed door flanked by fluted Corinthian columns, the trunk enclosed by an arched door inlaid with a vase in an oval panel, the similarly inlaid plinth on ogee bracket feet, height 98.1 [illegible] (250.2 cm). Note: *R. Henderson*, 1705-1750 (Baillie). See Illustration *Provenance: Estate of Bing Crosby, Hillborough*. (Est. price 3,000-[illegible])



**481 GEORGE II WALNUT LONGCASE CLOCK** ▶
*Henry Perry, London*, 12" dial engraved within the steel chapter ring, cast brass spandrels, matching steel hands, inner calendar aperture and seconds dial, eight-day hour strike with unusual count wheel, the hood with attached column stiles over a waisted trunk enclosed by a door with a half-round moulded edge, the plinth on a box base, the interior of the door bearing a sterling silver plaque inscribed as follows *Presented by Country Gentlemen to Bing Crosby, three times winner of the Rural Motion Picture Poll, May 14, 1948*, height 85" (215.9 cm). Note: *Henry Perry*, admitted to the Clockmaker's Company 1731, (Baillie). See Illustration *Provenance: Estate of Bing Crosby, Hillborough*. (Est. price 2,500-4,000)

TWO OF BING'S GRANDFATHER CLOCKS FROM THE AUCTION

In case the type by the clocks does not reproduce clearly, it's worth noting that the clock on the right bears the notation: "Presented by Country Gentlemen to Bing Crosby, three times winner of the Rural Motion Picture Poll, May 14, 1948".

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COLLECTOR'S
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For a change of pace, this issue we have one of the special paper covers issued by Columbia Records in Australia in the 1930's for their star artists. There were a whole series of these issued highlighting a variety of artists.

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CORNER
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This is one of the very first Crosby LP's to be issued that was not just a collection of old 78's. Of course, it was not specially recorded either. The eight tracks featured were actually taken from Bing's daily radio broadcast with the Buddy Cole Trio. The LP was mastered on June 26th.

(cont from p.36)

most extensive and probably the longest broadcast series ever done on the singer.

I know you will be as wonderfully co-operative as you always have been. I look forward with great pleasure to our 'family' endeavour. It is bound to be a great adventure. It would have pleased Bing, I am certain.

Drop a line to John and give him your moral support. His home address is 1464 S.W. Davenport, Portland, Oregon, 97201, USA.".

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LETTERS

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From Harry & Laurel Scott, Glenroy, Victoria.

At the risk of being labelled prudes, we were quite incredulous at hearing Bing's rendition of 'How ya gonna keep them down on the farm' from the special 3LO broadcast. I still cannot believe my ears! To our minds, the lyrics are quite crude, befitting some army barracks and seemingly out of character for Bing. I was aware of the Crosby language being risque since I have read Charles Thompson's 'The Complete Crosby' but I believed Bing was quite above that, even for a private audience.
I do not know how you or other members feel about this, nor do I wish to blow it out of proportion, since against this criticism one must consider the many virtues that Crosby possessed. eg his humility in the light of his super star status, support for charity, etc. However, apart from this, Crosby was, and apparently still is an institution, a man who stood outside the permissiveness of the entertainment world, a father figure to many of us and a man whom I deeply respected as well as admired. I regreat that this image has received something of a serious dent.
It is a shock to us, I guess it always is when one finds one's ideal to have feet of clay. But I would suggest to you that our assumptions are also shared by many.

(What are your opinions of Bing and how have they changed as a result of books such as 'The Hollow Man'? We'd be interested to hear from you and happy to publish all letters. BM)

# Seattle's Waterfront Trollies to Debut

By DICK STOKKE

IF OLD STREETCARS turn you on, you'll really groove on Seattle's Great Australian Tramway. It's to be dedicated Saturday, May 29, with regular service up and down the Elliott Bay waterfront scheduled to begin on Sunday, June 6, at 30 cents a ride.

The May 29th party, some say, will simply have to be postponed, because everything couldn't possibly be ready in time. But crews are working overtime to finish the car barn northof Pier 70, the proper power lines overhead, the crosswalks and wait-stations and the "rectifier station" below the hill on Virginia Street a block east of Alaskan Way. Know what a rectifier station is? City Councilman George Benson does, along with a carload of other information about streetcars.

George was actually seduced by an extremely attractive price of only $5,000 apiece for the four cars, which had been retired from service in Melbourne, Australia. Originally built in 1927, the cars are in amazingly good condition, testifying to a respectful attitude toward public property in Australia which has, alas, not been duplicated in this country. Of course the $5,000 figure is only a dim memory today, in a project that has swollen to a staggering 3.5 million, with waterfront property owners, businessmen and city hall pitching in with assessments, local improvement districts, fundraising campaigns, cross-country trips, conferences, work projects and knock-down-drag-out-fights.

It's an almost nine-year-old project, and the only person involved who hasn't aged because of it is Benson himself; it's been his project all along. He's breathed life back into the "dead" plan more times than he can remember, patiently and cheerfully enduring ridicule, friendly kidding and just plain lack of interest every inch of the way. The city council only last year voted its approval. The intricate funding plan includes city, federal and private money. George insists the trolleys will begin to pay for themselves in only two years. It will be the only waterfront streetcar line in the United States, with new paint, thorough testing and special fittings to accommodate handicapped passengers.

The trolleys will leave the barn across from Pier 70, run south on the waterfront on one track only, past the Port of Seattle's Pier 66 for its first stop at Bell Street. Next stop Pike Street, opposite the Seattle Aquarium, downhill from Pike Place Market. Then on to University Street and the import store area near Pier 56, then further south to Marion Street, the old fireboat station and Ivar's Pier, ending in a railblock at Main Street.

No turn-around. The old Aussie trams don't need one. Each car is double-ended like a Puget Sound ferry, with identical controls in operator's cabs at each end. When you run out of track, you carry your control handle to the "back" of the car and reverse engins until you reach the opposite end of the line. When two cars are in simultaneous service, one will wait at the passing track near Pike Street until the other has passed.

Original plans called for 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. with double-car service from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the lunch crowd.

THE CARS ARE not Toonerville Trolleys. They took their trams seriously in Melbourne and custom built the massive behemoths stouter than any of the old orange boxes that rattled around Seattle until they were scrapped 41 years ago. These cars are lovingly and ingeniously fashioned, with gridded floors of white ashwood, curved wooden seats handmade of laminated alternating strips of white ash and Tasmanian mahogany, spotless and unscarred as on their retirement day. Sliding doors divide the compartments, the long leather side-seats are unmarred, and safety glass in the operator cabs at each end is labeled "Pilkington Armour-Float Safety Screen." Not bad for only $5,000, plus $20,000 shipping. Seattle has $32,000 worth of parts in house for the trams, plus an extra fourth car. ("It was agonizing deciding which car to pick for cannibalizing," grieves Benson. "All of them are such gems!")

In fact, the only graffiti is on car #528—and it was committed by an American. Hidden inside a service panel is the memorial, "John Russi—Tacoma—2-11-41." A forgotten U.S. citizen 10 months before Pearl Harbor, wanted someone, somewhere, sometime, to remember him. And he was kind enough to use only chalk.

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MORE LETTERS

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From Ineke Hommes, Holland

Now that the final school exams are over, I've taken a year off before starting further studies, so I've got plenty of time for Bingthings! I would very much like to write something for your magazine.

From Shirley Naylor, Orange.

Richard Pearson is doing a lot for the club in Arlington. With a little bit of luck, I might meet Richard again next year, as a cousin of mine has been accepted as a schoolteacher in Toronto and I've been invited to stay with her and her husband. As Washington DC isn't all that far off, I'll pop down for a weekend if suitable.

From Arnold Baker, Ireland

Of one thing I can assure you, my Bing/Glenn Miller tape is a first dub (at 7½ ips) of the BBC transcription discs (four discs at 7½ minutes each) so that a better sound from this show will never be heard.

From Graham Pascoe, Bathurst

Thanks for sending the the tapes from the cassette library. If the rest of the KHB series is as good as the couple I have heard, then they will provide many hours of enjoyment supreme.
I was interested to read your review of 'The Hollow Man' in the November issue of 'The Crosby Voice'. Although I found much of the contents not particularly enjoyable, it was interesting nevertheless. I tried to read it objectively and accept the author's statement that here is an alternative version of Bing's life.
Perhaps my main objections to it are, first, their sources. Personal recollections of events which occurred in the thirties are bound to be suspect and newspaper columnists reports of the day would hardly be authoritative. Second, their interpretation of the 'facts' is invariably unsympathetic to Crosby and when they attribute his motives for various actions to the conclusions they preach, their 'impartiality' disappears.

(A good review Graham. Anyone like to add their comments? BM)

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BITS AND PIECES

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* Sad to note the passing of Sam Coslow and Harry Mills.
Sam Coslow, as you know, was a successful songwriter who contributed to a number of Crosby songs of the 30's including those from 'College Humour' and 'Too Much Harmony'.
Harry Mills of course, was one of the surviving Mills Brothers who accompanied Bing on a handful of memorable early recordings and who also appeared with Bing in his 50th Anniversary TV special to re-create one of them: 'Dinah'. The Mills Brothers had many hits of their own over the years, right into the 1960's and 70's.

* As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, Bert Newton of Melbourne's 3UZ purchased a plaque awarded to Bing by our wartime Prime Minister John Curtin. This plaque was given in thanks for Bing helping to sell War Bonds which came about when the 'Bond' songs from short films made by Crosby during the war were specially processed onto 78 rpm records for playing at our picture theatres. I'm told that these songs were so successful in their aim of selling War Bonds that the Australian Government sent Bing a special plaque.
At least, that's the story I heard. Anyone else care to comment?

* A new group 'Bing's Friends and Collectors Society' has been formed in San Mateo California. September 11th this year is set down for the groups first annual meeting. We wish them well.

* On April 30th, Canberra's Community Radio Station 2XX presented a screening of 'King of Jazz'.

* Saga of the Melbourne Tram CONCLUDED.
In our last issue, you will recall that we brought you another episode in that years-long saga by councilman George Benson of Seattle to get a Melbourne streetcar (tram) he had purchased on behalf of the city set up as a tourist attraction. We are delighted to report that the insurmountable problems have at last been surmounted and that the Melbourne tram (streetcar) is now in place and running! As a special tribute to the man who made this possible and whose heroic endeavours have enlivened these pages over the years, we happily reproduce, on page 42, the editorial from the Seattle Post-Intelligencier which tells of the forthcoming opening day. Read it carefully. Melbourne readers especially will have a chuckle or two!

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FROM OUT OF THE PAST
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(As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, member George Styles kindly donated a large pile of the Australian Musical Magazine 'Tempo' to the club. These magazines are a wealth of fascinating information about the pop music scene of the 1940's and although primarily aimed at the jazz audiences of the time with the emphasis on Australian bands, they regularly featured reviews, articles, etc on U.S. and English artists. Several extracts follow which give an idea of the content of the magazine. Naturally, these are mostly selected for Crosby content, but there are one or two other short articles.)

January 1942

FAMOUS BAND IN 'BIRTH OF THE BLUES' - Best Jazz History Filmed.

Happiest and highest paid extras in Hollywood are the 250 who are working in a cafe scene in Paramount's 'Birth of the Blues'. Heading the cast are Bing Crosby, Mary Martin, Brian Donlevy, Carolyn Lee, Eddie 'Rochester' Anderson and Orchestra Leader Jack Teagarden. Not only do these experts sing and play during actual scenes for the picture, but between takes they give away a million dollars worth of entertainment.

Bing plays the leader of an orchestra. It includes Teagarden on the trombone, Harry Barris plays a bass fiddle thumper, Perry Botkin on the guitar, Dan Beck on drums and Donald Kerr on clarinet. Bing works over a clarinet and Donlevy handles a cornet. Harry Rosenthal is on piano

That's for the "takes" - but between scenes the boys get together for some sensational entertainment. Harry Rosenthal qualifies as one of the great piano players of this age. Beck is known far and wide as the trick drummer who rolls all over the stage, never missing a beat. Teagarden generally is admitted to be the top blues man on trombone. Crosby and Miss Martin need no introduction, nor does Barris, singer and song writer. Botkin is Crosby's favourite guitar accompanist, and Kerr is an oustanding hoofer.

Director Victor Schertzinger's hardest job is to get his extras rounded up for a scene. Invariably they're found, ten deep around a piano where these top theatrical entertainers are giving out with stuff audiences pay a lot of money to hear.

Maybe it's the influence of the costumes and the period - around 1910 but mostly they get together on things like 'Tiger Rag', 'Shine', 'Mary's a grand old name', 'I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy', 'It's a grand old flag' and things of that nature.

The harmony may not always be good, but the music is tops and the entertainment greater. Plenty of extras on the set have volunteered to work for nothing, just so they can listen.

February 1942

MUSIC IN MOVIES - Bob Crosby Band to wax score of 'Holiday Inn'.

Hollywood - the Bob Crosby band, apparently coming into its own at last, has been signed to record the entire score of 'Holiday Inn', the super-super musical featuring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire, and now in production at Paramount. The score contains 12 new songs by Irving Berlin plus two of his oldies - 'Easter Parade' and 'Lazy'.

The contract with the Crosby outfit calls for a 60 day working schedule. The scoring, according to present plans, will call for eight dance routines by Fred Astaire plus accompaniment for Bing's vocals.

Strings may be added to the combination for some numbers, according to musical director, Bobby Dolan. The Crosby band will not be seen in the picture at any time. The musicians seen in the picture will be Hollywood 'sideline' musicians who go through the motions of playing to a recording when the scenes are photographed for the purpose of synchronization. Sometimes they slip a new soundtrack into the film before it is released, in which case synchronization becomes a minus quality, as many of you have no doubt noticed.

December 1944

MAJOR GLENN MILLER STILL MISSING

Major Glenn Miller, who left England by air on December 15th, for the continent to arrange concerts for servicemen, is still missing.

Miller arrived in England in July 1944 with the American Band of the AEF and broadcast consistently on the AEF programmes of the BBC and also recorded for HMV with Dinah Shore.

Although there may still be hope for his safety, stark facts present a very grave outlook. The plane in which he was travelling

has never been heard of since. Miller was born in Iowa, 1910, and first became prominent as trombonist with Ben Pollack, was arranger and recorder for Red Nichols and worked with the Dorsey Brothers, Glen Ray, Benny Goodman and Ray Noble. Miller formed his own band in 1937.

RECORD REVIEWS - June 1946.

BING CROSBY 'All of my life' / 'More and More'

Only two sides from 'The Groaner' at going to press time but both are right up to his usual standard. First side is a new number by Irving Berlin while the second was from the Deanna Durbin film 'Can't help singing'. Nothing much one can say about Bing beyond the fact that he is Bing. John Scott Trotter provides fine support with a grand orchestra.

September 1945
DOWN BEAT POLL RESULTS - Male Singers

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Bing Crosby | 2,249 | 11. Buddy Boylan | 53 |
| 2. Frank Sinatra | 2,139 | 12. Dave Street | 46 |
| 3. Dick Haymes | 669 | 13. Phil Brito | 41 |
| 4. Perry Como | 553 | 14. Ray Eberle | 37 |
| 5. Johnny Desmond | 339 | 15. Herb Jeffries | 37 |
| 6. Bob Eberly | 283 | 16. Dick Todd | 19 |
| 7. Andy Russell | 202 | 17. Leo Watson | 18 |
| 8. Joe Turner | 126 | 18. Josh White | 18 |
| 9. Johnny Mercer | 103 | 19. Step Wharton | 16 |
| 10. Jack Leonard | 102 | 20. Johnny Johnston | 15 |

(All of which goes to show the enormous popularity of Crosby and Sinatra at this time. Both are more than three times ahead of their closest rival, Dick Haymes. For contrast, the top girl singers in the same poll are: Jo Stafford, Billie Holiday, Dinah Shore, Peggy Lee, Helen Forrest, Ella Fitzgerald, Kitty Kallen, Martha Tilton, Lena Horne and Mildred Bailey.)

And that's where we must leave this issue of 'The Crosby Voice'. It's been a marathon task, not only compiling all the material but also typing it. Sorry about any errors I may have failed to pick up! See you August 16th.

Bob Mackie